

Sanitized - Approved for Release

UNITED PRESS
INTERNATIONAL

December 28

FOIA b3b

UPI-110

(RED CHINA)

WASHINGTON--REP. THOMAS J. LANE, D-MASS., PROPOSED TODAY THAT THE UNITED STATES SOUND OUT POSSIBILITIES OF EXCHANGING MEDICINES AND FOOD FOR AMERICAN PRISONERS IN RED CHINA JAILS.

LANE SUGGESTED AN EXCHANGE SIMILAR TO THE ONE THAT FREED CUBANS FROM FIDEL CASTRO'S PRISONS.

IN A LETTER TO SECRETARY OF STATE DEAN RUSK, HE SUGGESTED THAT THE STATE DEPARTMENT WORK THROUGH BRITISH DIPLOMATS IN PEKING TO INVESTIGATE THE POSSIBILITIES OF SUCH AN EXCHANGE.

LANE NOTED THE SUCCESS OF THE CUBAN DEAL AND ASKED, "WHY CAN'T THE SAME BE DONE FOR RICHARD G. FECTEAU, JOHN T. DOWNEY, AND SEVERAL OTHER AMERICANS WHO HAVE BEEN PRISONERS OF RED CHINA FOR 10 YEARS?"

FECTEAU, OF LYNN, MASS., AND DOWNEY, OF NEW BRITAIN, CONN., WERE SENTENCED ON ESPIONAGE CHARGES IN 1952. DOWNEY WAS SENTENCED TO LIFE IMPRISONMENT WHILE FECTEAU WAS GIVEN A 20-YEAR PRISON TERM.

"ALTHOUGH THE CIRCUMSTANCES DIFFER, I BELIEVE THAT THE ONE-AND-TAKE OF COMMUNIST RUSSIA IN THE POWERS CASE AND OF COMMUNIST CUBA IN RELEASING THE REBELS CAPTURED IN THE 1961 INVASION OFFERS HOPE THAT COMMUNIST CHINA WILL BE RECEPTIVE TO SIMILAR NEGOTIATIONS," LANE SAID.

"I URGE THE STATE DEPARTMENT, WHICH HAS BEEN SUCCESSFUL IN SUCH MATTERS, TO EMPLOY THE SAME SKILL AND THE IMAGINATION IN BARGAINING FOR THE LIBERATION OF THE FEW AMERICANS HELD BY THE CHINESE REDS," HE SAID.

12/28--PA 159 PES

CPYRGHT

Sanitized - Approved for Release CIA-RDP80-01000A000100010001-6